
BIOGRAPHY

www.mzdrums.com

Mauricio
Zottarelli

Brazilian born, New York City-based drummer/composer Mauricio Zottarelli has been on the forefront of the Jazz, Latin and Brazilian music scenes for many years. A Grammy nominated artist, Zottarelli has been called “superb”, “outstanding”, “dynamic” and “extraordinary” by many prestigious international publications, such as *JazzTimes* and *Downbeat* magazines.

Mauricio comes from a musical family and was born in Santos, SP, Brazil, but grew up in Rio Claro, SP in a highly musical environment. His first few years as a professional musician consisted of many performances throughout his native country as well as studio and session work with different artists and bands. At the same time, he pursued a degree in Computer Science, and concluded his studies in 1997. Mauricio moved to the U.S. in 1999 after winning a scholarship award to study at Berklee College of Music, in Boston, MA. He majored in Film Scoring, Performance and Arranging, and graduated from the prestigious college in 2002.

Zottarelli is a critically acclaimed and award-winning drummer and artist. Since his move to New York City in 2006, he has become one of the most sought after drummers on the scene. Zottarelli is credited in almost 100 albums so far in his career, and has worked and shared the stage with some of the most important and notable artists of today, crossing over many musical styles. Some of them are: *Hiroshi, Eliane Elias, Toquinho, Prasanna, Eddie Daniels, Lee Ritenour, Dave Grusin, Esperanza Spalding, Keiko Matsui, Richard Bona, Paquito D’Rivera, Richard Galliano, Cristina Pato, Chuck Loeb, Romero Lubambo, Chico Pinheiro, Cláudio Roditi, Joe Locke, Geoffrey Keezer, Mike Pope, Eldar, Ivan Lins, Carmen Souza, Rosa Passos, Dom Salvador, Christos Rafalides, Jovino Santos Neto, Nilson Matta, Toninho Horta, Oriente Lopez, Filó Machado, Gustavo Assis Brasil, Hendrik Meurkens* and many others.

Also active as a bandleader and composer/arranger, Mauricio co-leads and collaborates with several projects, such as the **Dig Trio**, which released its first CD in 2003 to great reviews from critics and audiences alike. In 2009, Mauricio released his first solo album, entitled **7 Lives**, which includes several of his own compositions and it features a unique mix of Brazilian jazz, fusion, and jazz played by a very talented lineup: *Gustavo Assis Brasil (guitars), Itaiguara Brandão (bass), Milene Corso (vocals), Brandi Disterheft (bass), Dom Salvador (piano), Oriente Lopez (piano, flutes), Esperanza Spalding (bass), Cidinho Teixeira (piano) and Rodrigo Ursaia (sax)*.

In 2011 Zottarelli released **MOZIK** – a collaboration with pianist Gilson Schachnik, and also featuring Gustavo Assis Brasil, Fernando Huergo and Yulia Musayelyan. The album has garnered praises from many important jazz/music publications such as *Downbeat magazine* and *All About Jazz*. The prestigious *Jazz Station Blog*, written by journalist/producer Arnaldo deSouteiro, considered MOZIK the *#1 new talent of 2011* and included the CD in their **TOP 15 best** of 2011. The blog has consistently listed Mauricio in their *Top 10 Drummers Of The Year list* since 2011.

In 2012, Mauricio won the prestigious **Brazilian Music Awards** (Prêmio da Música Brasileira), the most important music award in Brazil, with artist Dom Salvador and his album “The Art of Samba

Jazz". In 2014, Mauricio released another collaboration – this time with bassist Amanda Ruzza. The album is called "**Glasses, No Glasses**", and it is a free improvisation, live-in-the-studio recording with special guest, pianist and multi-instrumentalist Léo Genovese.

Mauricio's highly anticipated new album "**Upside Down Looking Up**" - an ambitious new release about a person's journey through life and its at times overwhelming situations, was released in November 2017. *Listed among the 25 best albums of the year by Jazz Station*, this project is also a personal account of Mauricio's past few years and features mostly original compositions performed by a stellar band, consisting of Zottarelli's regular group members and some very special guests: *Oriente Lopez (flute/piano); Itaguara Brandão (bass) Rodrigo Ursaia (sax); Gustavo Assis Brasil (guitars); Milene Corso (vocals); Mike Pope (bass); Eldar Djangirov (keys); Helio Alves (piano) Christos Rafalides (vibes) and Klaus Mueller (piano).*

In 2018 Mauricio was a finalist on the 23rd USA Songwriting Competition, in two different categories, with songs from his newest album.

Following his growing interest in music education, Mauricio teaches regularly in the NYC area, and has done workshops/clinics in South America, Europe and the USA. He has taught at the world-famous *Brazil Camp* in California; the Berklee LATINO program in Colombia, and has written many articles for *Modern Drummer Magazine* in Brazil.

SMALLER BIO

The Brazilian-born and New York City-based drummer and composer Mauricio Zottarelli has been on the forefront of the Jazz, Latin and Brazilian music circles for many years. A Grammy nominated artist, Zottarelli has been called "superb", "outstanding", "dynamic" and "extraordinary" by many prestigious international publications such as *JazzTimes* and *Downbeat* magazines, and has become one of the most sought after drummers on the scene since his move to NYC in 2006.

A Berklee College of Music graduate, Mauricio is a critically acclaimed and award-winning drummer and artist. He is credited in almost 100 albums so far in his career, and has worked with dozens of the most important and notable artists of today, crossing over many musical styles. Some of them are: *Hiromi, Eliane Elias, Toquinho, Prasanna, Eddie Daniels, Lee Ritenour, Dave Grusin, Esperanza Spalding, Keiko Matsui, Richard Bona, Paquito D'Rivera, Richard Galliano, Cristina Pato, Chuck Loeb, Romero Lubambo, Chico Pinheiro, Cláudio Roditi, Joe Locke, Geoffrey Keezer, Mike Pope, Eldar, Ivan Lins, Carmen Souza, Rosa Passos, Dom Salvador, Christos Rafalides, Jovino Santos Neto, Nilson Matta, Toninho Horta, Oriente Lopez, Filó Machado, Gustavo Assis Brasil, Hendrik Meurkens* and many others.

As a band-leader/solo artist, Mauricio has released two critically acclaimed albums: *7 LIVES* (2009) featuring an original mix of Jazz, Fusion and Brazilian Music; and *UPSIDE DOWN LOOKING UP* (2017), his highly anticipated follow-up disc, featuring a stellar lineup: *Oriente Lopez (flute/piano); Itaguara Brandão (bass) Rodrigo Ursaia (sax); Gustavo Assis Brasil (guitars); Milene Corso (vocals); Mike Pope (bass); Eldar Djangirov (keys); Helio Alves (piano) Christos Rafalides (vibes) and Klaus Mueller (piano).* As a co-leader/co-producer, Mauricio has released 3 albums so far: *DIG TRIO* (2003) with guitarist Gustavo Assis Brasil; *MOZIK* (2011) with pianist Gilson Schachnik; and *GLASSES, NO GLASSES* (2014) with bassist Amanda Ruzza.

Mauricio has been consistently featured on the prestigious "Jazz Station" website as one of

the top 10 drummers of the year since 2011, and in 2012 he won the most important music award in Brazil, the “Brazilian Music Awards”, with legendary pianist Dom Salvador. In 2018 he was a finalist in the 23rd USA Songwriting Competition in two different categories, with songs from his latest album.

Mauricio is equally active as a teacher and educator, and has performed clinics, workshops, and taught in several music education programs in South America, USA and Europe. He has written many articles for Modern Drummer Magazine in Brazil. He can be reached at www.mzdrums.com.

WEB Sites:

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www.youtube.com/mzdrums

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Mauricio uses exclusively:

Latin Percussion LP Percussion • **Vic Firth** sticks • **Evans** Drumheads

Soultone Cymbals • **Lexicon** Pro Audio • **FSA** Cajons

PowerClick in-ear monitors • **Gruv Gear** Accessories

Snares by **Wisdom Drums** & **Bay Custom Drums**

PRESS QUOTES - Praises for Mauricio, his group, and some of his CD releases

#7 Best Drummer of 2018

#4 Best Drummer of 2017

#4 Best Drummer of 2016

#5 Best Drummer of 2014

#5 Best Drummer of 2013

#3 Best Drummer of 2012

#7 Best Drummer of 2011

Among Best 25 albums of the year (2017 – “Upside Down Looking Up”)

Best New Talent of 2011 (with MOZIK)

A. deSouteiro – Jazz Station

“A benchmark recording from one of the premier drummers in just about any music played today.”

www.jazzdagama.com (review of “Upside Down Looking Up” 2017)

the superb Brazilian drummer Mauricio Zottarelli.”

JazzTimes Magazine

"Outstanding – Much more than just drums, cymbals, and drumsticks."

L. Nobile, Newspaper "O Estado de São Paulo", Brazil review of the CD "7 Lives"

(...)the stupendous drummer Mauricio Zottarelli..." The News Group on-line – SPAIN /Latino América Exterior (on-line) – SPAIN

"Drummer Zottarelli is remarkable, practically providing a clinic on Brazilian drumming and percussion."

Latin Beat Magazine - LMBO.com - on a review about Mauricio's new project MOZIK

"Zottarelli expresses his musicality in an almost indescribable manner, showing his incredible mastery of the instrument, and making the music become the target of all his phrases and grooves. The drummer knows how to put each figure in the right place, always playing to the music, with tasteful tones to choose from, besides presenting extraordinary technique and musicality!"

F. Marrone – Modern Drummer Magazine BRAZIL – review of "Aguas Profundas" by Oriente Lopez

"Roditi's latest drummer, the brilliant Mauricio Zottarelli gives notice here that he is a force to reckon with as he shades the piece with earthy tones and polyrhythms. Elsewhere...Zottarelli shows how sensitive he can be."

Raul da Gama – Latin Jazz Network – a review about Claudio Roditi's CD *Bons Amigos* (2011)

"First and foremost – the amazing Brazilian drummer/percussionist, Mauricio Zottarelli, performed a splendid job in meshing genuine Brazilian musical concepts with Bebop jazz."

Danny R. Johnson – San Diego County News' Washington,DC - on a review about Claudio Roditi's CD *Bons Amigos*

"(...) Featuring Zottarelli's many different rhythmic and compositional skills, this album is high-quality Brazilian jazz". H.Sugita - *Swing Journal* – JAPAN – review of MZ's "7 Lives" album

(...) An excellent example of how a record from a great musician should be done; on which the creativity, good taste, and musicality are all highly valued. And for whoever wants it, there is the technical aspect too—always applied for the benefit of the music." V. Rocha, *Modern Drummer Magazine*, BRAZIL - review of Mauricio's CD *7 Lives*

"Sonicbloom, Hiromi's frenetic but exacting fusion band, relies on the strong propulsion of the British bassist Tony Grey and the Brazilian drummer Mauricio Zottarelli." *The New York Times* - Hiromi's Blue Note NYC 2009 concert review

"Mauricio Zottarelli is a hot new talent to watch out for!" John Stevenson – www.ejazznews.com

"(...)Mauricio Zottarelli, one of the new promising brazilian drummers..." www.lasprovincias.es - Valencia, SPAIN
www.valencianoticias.com - ValenciaNews (SPAIN)

"Mauricio Zottarelli is a machine! Keep your eyes on him." DRUM PRO magazine- USA

"And once again a drummer proves to be quite musical. Zottarelli's drumming is not just

running through different rhythms, rather they serve the song. He accompanies the songs with great feeling. A convincing debut album from a drummer you certainly should know."

www.jazzdrummerworld.com – review of CD "7 Lives"

" The dynamic Brazilian drummer Mauricio Zottarelli (...)" M. Jackson – Downbeat Magazine

"Zottarelli, who wrote seven out of the eleven songs, is not only a gifted composer but also a great producer. A drummer whose playing is incredibly musical and at the same time propulsive, whose kicks and breaks are always directly related to the purpose of the song. If you have seen Zottarelli live, you will understand what I mean by that, and the joy of playing that this drummer emanates." S. Gerosa, *Jazz n' More* magazine, SWITZERLAND – review of "7 Lives"